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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Gert HEINRICH et al.

Confirmation No. 8360

Group Art Unit: 1714

Serial No : 09/994,774

Examiner: Katarzynai WYROZEBSKI LEE

Filed : November 28, 2001

For : RUBBER COMPOUND FOR TIRE TREAD RUBBER

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

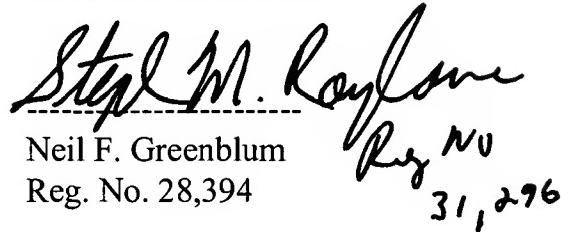
Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed July 6, 2004, and to the Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application.

In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain features are not disclosed or taught by the prior art or that the priority of this application renders the rejections moot, as noted by the Examiner, Applicants further wish to make clear that the claims in the present application recite a combination of features, and that patentability of these claims is also based on the totality of the features recited therein, which define over the prior art.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Gert HEINRICH et al.


Neil F. Greenblum
Reg. No. 28,394
31,296

September 21, 2004
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191